

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**İsmail Belen, TCDC** *Consultant for Public Awareness and Training*, CEM/MoFWA, Turkey

**COUNTRIES VISITED:** Kyrgyzstan

**DATES OF MISSION:**  14-22 May 2014

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**DATES OF MISSION:**  14-22 May 2014

**DATE OF REPORT:** 8 June 2014

**PURPOSE OF MISSION**:

1. Designing and coordinating participatory preparation of an integrated micro-catchment (MC) rehabilitation plan by a multidisciplinary team, for a selected area in Kyrgyzstan, to serve for demonstration and training purposes;
2. Participating and contributing at the “Training Workshop on Participatory Integrated Watershed Rehabilitation Planning, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan;
3. Exchanging views and ideas with the key institutions and stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan on the development challenges of mountain watershed areas and the next steps, including elaboration of national and sub-regional level collaboration projects and programs.

**Cleared for distribution by:** Mustapha Sinaceur

Sub-regional Coordinator for Central Asia

**Distribution:**

Ekrem Yazici, SEC Forestry Officer

Erdoğan Özevren, Project Regional Coordinator

SEC-Professionals

REU-Professionals

# Brief Information About Conduction Of The Mission

The reporting consultant (RC) travelled to Kyrgyzstan between 14-22 May, 2014, including the traveling time with frame work of the project entitled **“Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds in Central Asia and the Caucasus-GCP/SEC/002/TUR**”

The RC has been working as the TCDC Consultant for Awareness Creation and Training in the Project and responsible to carry out the following tasks in briefly:

* **Establish contacts for raising interest and commitment among the high level decision makers** to support testing and expansion of the holistic (integrated) participatory (collaborative) watershed management approach, integrating rehabilitation and livelihood works in the project countries.
* Provide suggestions and take initiatives for establishment useful and **sustainable communication networks among the key watershed agencies** of the project countries;
* Assist the review of the institutional setup and mechanisms related to watershed management, **in particular public awareness and training development needs** in the project countries;
* **Work closely with the other TCDC experts** and national consultants for the planning and contacting of the participatory integrated watershed management trainings;

With the framework of these tasks, during this mission the followings accomplished.

# Establishing Contact among High Level Decision Makers

As it was indicated at the project text, establishing contact among high level decision makers is crucial for the success of this project. For this reason;

**Turkish Agencies in Kyrgyzstan**

* At the first day of the mission, 15th of May, 2014, The Turkish Embassy to Bishkek, <http://biskek.be.mfa.gov.tr/> , has been visited, together with the Regional Coordinator of the Project Mr. Erdoğan Özevren and Zhenishbek Abdygaziev from Kyrgyzstan.
* During this visit, the Deputy Ambassador Mr. İlham Atuş has been informed in detailed about the project and required to share with the Ambassador.
* At the 20th of May, together with the whole delegation, the Embassy of Turkey has been visited again and detailed information was given to HE Metin Kılıç, the Ambassador of Turkey to Kyrgyzstan.
* Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency <http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/> is one of the key partners of this project both in Kyrgyzstan and other project countries. It is expected to finance the upcoming integrated microcatchment rehabilitation project to be implementing in Colakkayındı Watershed. In order to give information and share all improvements, the Project Delegation including İsmail Belen, Erdoğan Özevren, Beytullah Fidan, Sibel Nihal Tekin and Elçin Acar visited to The Coordinator of TIKA Office in Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Hakan Ergun.

**Kyrgyz Officials**

* The main unit for the project in Kyrgyzstan is the STATE AGENCY ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND FORESTRY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC- http://www.nature.kg
* At the second day of the mission, **16th of May, 2014**, an official visit paid to State Agency. Cooperation and collaboration between Turkey and Kyrgyzstan and the Project was the main topic for this meeting. Mr. Ismail Belen, as the Deputy Director General for Combating Desertification and Erosion Control gave information about past, ongoing and upcoming projects and bilateral agreements between two countries. Mr. Erdoğan Özevren and other project staff provided presentations.
* Kyrgyz side headed by the Deputy President of the State Agency Mr. Abdimital Chingojoev. In Kyrgyzstan there are Ministries and State Agencies under the Prime Minister and State Agencies are in the same right and position like Ministries. During this meeting from Kyrgyz side, the Heads of Departments related to forestry issues were also be ready.

**Other Projects Countries**

* Actually it was expected to have representatives from other projects countries but no one joined. So among the five projects countries (Azerbaijan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) two of them (Turkey and Kyrgyzstan were represented).

**Local Authorities**

* It seems the management system of watershed in Kyrgyzstan is highly localised. During this mission the Deputy Hakim (Deputy District Governor) of Panpilov has been visited. He also attended the workshop and field trip.
* The Head of Village (Köybaşçısı) also was ready during this mission.

# Establishment Communication Networks among the Key Watershed Agencies

* A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. They cross county, state, and national boundaries[[1]](#footnote-1).
* Talking about “watershed agencies” requires more time and efforts. According to its situation every watershed can differ and can have different agencies.
* If we look at the Colakkayındı Microcatchment; it can be easily said that establishment communication network between;
  + State Agency On Environment Protection And Forestry Under The Government Of The Kyrgyz Republic- Http://Www.Nature.Kg
  + Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic.
  + Development Agencies like Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), [GIZ](https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/356.html), USAID, [Swiss Aid](http://www.swiss-cooperation.admin.ch/centralasia/en/Home/Activities_in_Kyrgyzstan/COMPLETED_PROJECTS/Forestry) and others.
* It is worthy to note that; The ninth Steering Committee meeting of the **National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management** in Kyrgyzstan was held in 13 March 2013, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. It was an [ongoing initiative](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/meetings/NPD_meetings/2013/Kyrgyzstan/SC_Mar2013/KG_9SC_agenda_EN.pdf) of the Ministry Of Agriculture And Melioration Of The Kyrgyz Republic (Department Of Water Management And Melioration) and European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue Component for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.
* Rangelands are very important for watershed and daily life of the people. In Kyrgyzstan rangelands are under the responsibility of Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration.

# Institutional setup and mechanisms related to watershed management

One of the main tasks of *TCDC Consultant for Public Awareness and Training* is to assist the review of the institutional setup and mechanisms related to watershed management, **in particular public awareness and training development needs** in the project countries.

With the framework of this mission it can be advice to train the local authorities and villagers in Turkey and here as on job training. It seems they don’t have serious problem on watershed management but starting from here for a project looks like a wise way to implement and to persuade people easily.

# Participating and contributing the workshop

The “Training Workshop on Participatory Integrated Watershed Rehabilitation Planning” was organized in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and attended by 35 participants from the government agencies, NGOs, Donor institutions, private sector, villagers as well as the General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion of Turkey.

Workshop and field excursion program is provided in Annex

Reporter made a speech on behalf of Turkey which can be found as Annex. He also provided the discussions during the workshop, field trip and meeting.

# Findings and Recommendations

1. This project is being supported financially by FAOSEC, the Ministry of Forests and Water Affairs of Turkey and TİKA. And supposed to be implemented by the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyzstan.
2. Special attention should be paid for ensuring TIKA’s support and allocation of adequate finance resources as soon as possible in order to avoid any delay that could put into risk timely starting (in Autumn 2014) and successful conduction of the field implementations. During this mission the reporter paid the most attention to inform TIKA and Turkish Embassy to Bishkek Officials about the importance of the project, both for natural resource management and social, political benefits for all sides.
3. Watershed management, drought, desertification and water scarcity is one of the most important and sensitive issues of Central Asian Countries. It seems it is necessary to have Intergovernmental Policy Dialogue on Watershed Management in Central Asia like The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development [(ICIMOD](http://www.icimod.org/)).
4. There are several initiatives in the region supported by different countries and organizations. But taking into account the current status of FAOSEC it can advise to have an intergovernmental body which is led by FAO.
5. [Azerbaijan](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&ISO3=AZE), [Kazakhstan](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=KAZ), [Kyrgyzstan](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=KGZ), [Tajikistan](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=TJK), [Turkey](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=TUR), [Turkmenistan](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=TKM) and [Uzbekistan](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=UZB). The partners of this ongoing Project are; [Azerbaijan](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&ISO3=AZE), [Kyrgyzstan](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=KGZ), [Tajikistan](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=TJK), [Turkey](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=TUR), and [Uzbekistan](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=UZB).
6. The Government of Turkey which is hosting the FAOSEC office in Ankara, and the FAO has signed a new partnership agreement on [forestry at the](http://www.fao.org/about/who-we-are/director-gen/faodg-news-archive/detail/en/c/233887/) 4th of June, 2014.
7. With the framework of this agreement a new initiative on watershed management can be started immediately for example by organizing a Ministerial or high level meeting in autumn 2014 preferably in Turkey with the support of FAO.
8. Besides these there is another ongoing initiative namely The Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States. The Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS) was established in 2009 as an international intergovernmental organization, with the overarching aim of promoting comprehensive cooperation among Turkic Speaking States. Its four founding member States are **Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey**. The member States of the Council embrace the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, along with other universally recognized principles of international law.
9. [The Fourth Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States](http://www.mfa.gov.tr/the-fourth-summit-of-the-cooperation-council-of-turkic-speaking-states-held-in-bodrum.en.mfa) (Turkic Council) hosted by President of Turkey, H.E. Abdullah Gül was held in Bodrum, Turkey on 4-5 June, 2014. **Presidents of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan**, member states of the Turkic Council, as well as President of **Turkmenistan**, H.E. Gurbangulu Berdimuhamedov upon the invitation of President Gül attended the Summit.
10. The Secretariat of Turkic Council and the FAO can organize a Ministerial meeting or High Level Meeting together with TIKA on forestry and watershed management.

# Annex 1 Mission Itinerary

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Activity | | Overnight |
| 14.05.2014 | 1 | Ankara-Istanbul-Bishkek (arrival in the morning of 15 May). | Bishkek |
| 15.5.14 | 15 | Review of the mission progress, MC planning and workshop preparation works. | Bishkek |
| 16 | Preparation of MC implementation plan and maps, calculation of costs and budget requirements by activities, years and sites, preparation of presentations. | Bishkek |
| 17 | Visiting Turkish Embassy | Bishkek |
| 18 | FAO visit for the workshop preparations (e.g. field excursion arrangements). | Bishkek |
| 16.5.14 | 19 | Presentation of the draft MC plan to local villagers, receiving their comments and recommendations for further elaboration of the plan. | Bishkek |
| 20 | Visiting Panfilov District Governor, inviting him to the workshop and field excursion. | Bishkek |
| 21 | Presentation of the draft MC plan to the decision makers and specialists of the forestry department and of the other government agencies , receiving their comments and recommendation for elaboration of the plan. | Bishkek |
| 17.5.14 | 22 | Writing draft MC plan. | Bishkek |
| 18.5.14 | 23 | Visiting Ala Archa National Park Sub-regional workshop preparations | Bishkek |
| 19.5.14 | 24 | ***Workshop on “Participatory integrated watershed rehabilitation planning”***: Presentations by the experts and country representatives on integrated participatory watershed planning and implementation, approaches, challenges, lessons learned from major watershed projects implemented. | ***Bishkek*** |
| 20.5.14 | 25 | Field visit to MC site, presentation and discussion of planned activities. | Bishkek |
| 26 | Meeting with the Turkish Ambassador (dinner) |  |
| 21.5.14 | 27 | Meeting at FAO (participated by GIZ and CAMP representatives):  - Assessment of the mission results and follow up actions under the current  project.  - Discussions and exchange views on the further collaboration in the field of  forestry and natural resources development, under the frameworks of the  FAO, TIKA, MoFWA, CEM programs. |  |
| 22.5.14 | 33 | Return Turkey | Bishkek |

# Annex 2: Workshop Program

**Training Workshop on Participatory Integrated Watershed Rehabilitation Planning**

**, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 19 May 2014**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Program Item / Topic** |  | |
| 08:30-09:30 | Registration | SAEPF | |
| 09:30-10:10 | Opening statements | SAEPF, KYR | |
| MoFWA | |
| FAO | |
| District Governor | |
| Presentation of the workshop participants |  | |
| 10:10-10:30 | Coffee break | | |
|  | **Introduction and Presentations about the progress** | | |
| 10:30-10:50 | Introduction of the Project and Workshop (e.g. objectives, expected outputs) | E. Ozevren, RPC | |
| 10:50-11:30 | Presentations by the countries’ representatives about watershed rehabilitation situation in their countries, including;   1. *Institutions involved in watershed rehabilitation and development works in mountain regions;(ii) Major watershed development projects implemented, lessons learned; (iii) Current technical guidelines for watershed rehabilitation works;(iv) Public education and awareness creation;(v) Suggestions for enhancement of collaboration between the sub-region countries and FAOSEC support.* | Kyrgyzstan,  Turkey | |
| 11:30-12:00 | Integrated-participatory watershed rehabilitation approach and micro-catchment based planning. | M. Dogru, TCDC Consultant | |
| 12:00-12:30 | Presentations by the villagers and local institutions. | Villagers  District representatives | |
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch | | |
|  | **Methodologies and Approaches on the Watershed management and**  **Micro-Catchment Level Planning** | | |
| 14:00-14:30 | Description of the selected micro-catchment site. | Elcin Acar, CEM | |
| 14:30-14:45 | Conduction and results of the Participatory Rural appraisals and stakeholders’ assessments. | S.N. Tekin, CEM | |
| 14:45-15:00 | Short statements by the village Headman, water and pasture users committees. | Erkin Arykov, Village Headman,  Kytai Jumagilov, Water Committee, Yusupov, Pasture Committee | |
| 15:00-15:30 | Public education and awareness creation for watershed rehabilitation and management projects and programs. | I.Belen, TCDC, Training and Awareness Creation, | |
| 15:30-15:50 | Coffee Break | | |
| 15:50-16:30 | Description of the natural resources rehabilitation interventions planned in the micro-catchment areas. | | E.Ozevren, RPC-  B.Fidan. CEM |
| 16:30:-17:10 | Description of the income generating and livelihood improvement intervention planned in the on MC areas. | | M.Duzgun |

# Annex 3: Field Excursion

**20 May 2014**

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| **Time** | **Activity** | **Responsibilities** |
| 08:30-10:30 | Travel to the project site (Cholok Kayindyl MC area near Karabalta) |  |
| 10:30-11:15 | Excursion Point 1: - General information about the village and MC site  - Drinking water problems  - Irrigation water system and development needs | Village Headman  Village Water Users Committee  Village Drinking Water Committee and Rayon Water Engineer |
| 11:15-11:45 | Excursion Point 2: Fast growing tree plantations and agroforestry  plantings (poplar-alpha-alpha) established on private lands. | Rayon foresters  Plantation owner |
| 11:45-13:30 | Excursion Point 3: - Examination of land and pasture degradation  problems and planned rehabilitation activities on Bulak valley. | Erdogan Ozevren-Beytullah Fidan |
| 13:30-16:00 | Excursion Point 3 Discussion of the interventions under the MC Plan.  (Lunch in the village) | Excursion participants-villagers |
| 16:00-18:00 | Return to Bishkek |  |

# Annex 4: Persons Met

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **no.** | **Name** | **Position** |
| 1 | HE Metin Kılıç | Ambassador of Turkey to Bishkek |
| 2 | İlham Ataş | Deputy Mission of Turkish Embassy |
| 3 | Hakan Ergun | TIKA Coordinator of Kyrgyzstan |
| 4 | Dorjee Kinlay | FAO Representative, Kyrgyzstan |
| 5 | Dinara Rakhmonova | Deputy FAO Representative |
| 6 | Heino Hertel | Senior Officer, Natural Resources Management , FAO |
| 7 | A.Chyngojoev | Deputy Chairman, SAEPF |
| 8 | Mr. Adylbek Ormonov | Head, Forest Ecosystems and Protected Areas Department |
| 9 | Mr. Bakyt Beisheev | Director, Forestry Management Department SAEPF |
| 10 | B.K.Beiskaev | Director, Forestry and Hunting Department |
| 11 | B.N. Salykmenbetova | Head of International Relations Department, SAEF |
| 12 | Adilet Usupbaev | National Academy of Sciences, Biology and Soil Institute, KYR |
| 13 | S.J. Chukumbaev | Deputy Director, Forestry and Hunting Department |
| 14 | Mr. Venera Surappaeva | Head of Division, Forestry Management Department SAEPF |
| 15 | M.Barkbaeva | Forestry and Hunting Department |
| 16 | N.Chodoev | Forestry and Hunting Department |
| 17 | J.Abdygaziev | Forestry and Hunting Department |
| 18 | B.Joldosh | Forestry and Hunting Department |
| 19 | Madaminbek Seidov | Agriculture Specialist |
| 20 | Sulaiman Berdikeev | Project Manager |
| 21 | Muratbekuluu Turatbek | Director, Jayil Forestry (lezkhoz) |
| 22 | Abdykalykova Gulnur | Senior specialist, Forest Management, Department, SAEPF |
| 23 | Gaginbek Talasbaev | Forester, Telman |
| 24 | Osmonov Narynbek | Chief Specialist Agrarian Development, Department, Panvilov rayon |
| 25 | Mr. Abdimalik Egemberdiev | Director, Pasture Management Department, Ministry of Agriculture |
| 26 | Andre Fabian | Senior Advisor, Program for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia, GIZ |
| 27 | Baktygul Stakeeva | GIZ Specialist |
| 28 | Sulaiman Berdikeev | Project Manager, GIZ |
| 29 | JanylKojomuratova | Senior coordinator of projects, CAMP Alatoo |
| 30 | Sonya Dimter | CIM-Expert, CAMP Alatoo |
| 31 | Ulan Amanturov | Project coordinator of [energy efficiency](http://camp.kg/?p=2692), CAMP Alatoo |
| 32 | Bilimbek Ajibekov | CAMP Ala-too, Assistant to Project Coordinator |
| 33 | Jumagulov Kytaibek | Director, Association, Telman village, Panfilov rayon |
| 34 | Jumaliev Jusup, Director, | Water Users Association “TashMazar”, Telman village, Panfilov rayon |
| 35 | Turdumbekov Mirlan | Pasture Committee, Panvilov rayon |
| 36 | Jakeev Kenjebek, forest warden | Jayil forestry (lezkhoz) |

# Annex 5: Speech Text of Ismail Belen at Workshop



**Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds**

**In Central Asia and the Caucasus** –

GCP / SEC / 002 / TUR

Under FAO-Turkey Partnership Program (FTPP)

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Speech Text for Training Workshop on Watershed Management

19-21 May 2014, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

**İsmail Belen**

Deputy Director General

General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion

Ministry of Forests and Water Affairs

Turkey

Distinguished Vice Minister

Distinguished Representative of Turkish Embassy,

Distinguished Representative of The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, TİKA

Distinguished Representatives of FAO,

Distinguished Representative of Uzbekistan

Distinguished Deputy Governor

Villagers of Telman village

Dear Guests, Dear Experts

Ladies and Gentlemen

Before starting my speech, I would like to salute you with my great respect, on behalf of myself and on behalf the Ministry of Forests and Water Affairs of Turkey.

I also would like to share my happiness to be here among distinguished representatives, friends and citizens of Kyrgyzstan. It is an honor for me to address to such an esteemed audience.

Dear Guest,

As you know, we are here on the occasion of Training Workshop on Watershed Management which has been organized with the framework of Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Firstly, I would like to cordially thank to the Project Team, as well as Kyrgyz and Turkish Experts, to all friends and colleagues who contributed to this project and to the preparation of this workshop and to our host, the [State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyzstan](http://www.nature.kg/) for their hospitality. And of course to the lovely people of the Village of Talmen and Panfilov.

Turkey has been hosting the FAO’s [Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia](http://www.fao.org/europe/sec/sec/en/) which is serving to [**Azerbaijan**](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&ISO3=AZE), [**Kazakhstan**](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=KAZ), [**Kyrgyzstan**](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=KGZ), [**Tajikistan**](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=TJK), [**Turkey**](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=TUR), [**Turkmenistan**](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=TKM) and [**Uzbekistan**](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=UZB) with the line of an agreement signed by the Government of Turkey and FAO. Within this partnership, several Projects have been implemented in these countries, together with FAO, TİKA and relevant national agencies. This project is one of them and has been implemented in [**Azerbaijan**](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&ISO3=AZE), [**Kyrgyzstan**](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=KGZ), [**Tajikistan**](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=TJK), [**Turkey**](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=TUR) and [Uzbekistan](http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=UZB) **simultaneously**.

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Dear Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen’s,

You will be informed in detail about the project in the continuation of the workshop. Our team has been here starting 4th of May more than two weeks. They visited to Telman Village, Panfilov District and their surroundings several times. They met with the villagers, children, women, shepherds they examined the soil and watershed basin, they have many things to share and to tell. And tomorrow we are going to visit there again.

In this regard, in this part of my speech, I want to mention to the bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries, Turkey and Kyrgyzstan, with your permission.

Turkey was the first country to recognize the independence of the Kyrgyz Republic on December 16, 1991. “The Eternal Friendship and Cooperation Agreement”, signed in 1997 and the “Turkey and Kyrgyzstan: Together Towards the 21st Century” statement, issued in 1999, constitute important documents underpinning our friendly and brotherly relations. The High Level Strategic Cooperation Council, established in 2011, held its first meeting in Turkey and has ushered in a new era in emboldening our strategic relations. 

There have been frequent high level visits between the two countries, including Presidential, Prime Ministerial and Ministerial levels. The President of Turkey, HE Abdullah Gül last visited Kyrgyzstan in August, 2012 in order to attend the Turkic Council Summit held by Kyrgyzstan. HE President Atambayev paid its first official visit to Turkey with his capacity as the President.

With the Prime Minister Level, the Prime Minister of Turkey HE Recep Tayyip Erdoğan paid a visit to Kyrgyzstan and chaired the second meeting of **“High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council”**. The next meeting of the high level strategic cooperation council is being planned to be in Turkey very soon, on the 3rd of June, 2014 and for the preparation of this, a delegation headed by the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, HE Coomart Otorbayev [visited to Turkey](http://kabar.kg/tur/gallery/full/7517) just last week, 15 May 2014.

Kyrgyzstan and Turkey were among the founders of [The Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS)](http://www.turkkon.org/en-US/general_information/299/308) which was established in 2009 as an intergovernmental organization, with the overarching aim of promoting comprehensive cooperation among Turkic Speaking States. Its four founding member States are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. **The next summit of this Council** is going to be organized in Turkey in 4-5 June, 2014 and as Turkish side, we look forward to host the President of Kyrgyzstan HE Atambayev in Turkey.

In the line with the Special Loan Agreement signed by Turkish and Kyrgyz side, dated 28th of July, 2012, Turkey has been supporting the projects worth of 100 million dollars, implemented in Kyrgyzstan by relevant authorities.

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Distinguished Guests, Dear Friends,

Along with these high level visits and agreements, there have been several joint initiatives on forestry sector. Some of them are as follows;

* On 15 October 1997, in Antalya "[The Protocol On Cooperation in the Field of Forestry Between the Ministry of Forestry, Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic](http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/main.aspx?home=http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/arsiv/23245.pdf&main=http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/arsiv/23245.pdf)” was signed.
* In line of this agreement, a delegation from Turkey was sent to Jalal-Abad[[2]](#footnote-2) Province in order to search damages and to prevent resulted from an insect, [**Lymantaria dispar** (Linne)](http://www.geocities.ws/ormanci59/Lymantaria.htm)**.** After this visit a project was prepared and implemented with the support of TIKA, Turkish Ministry of Forests and the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kirgizstan. [The Project](http://web.ogm.gov.tr/Haberler/HaberGoruntule.aspx?List=b5227992-7788-41c4-8a38-24e745c3108e&ID=5268) was titled as “**The Project on Combating to Lymantaria dispar Destroying the Walnut and Other Fruits in Kyrgyzstan**”, it was planned to [implement](http://web.ogm.gov.tr/Haberler/HaberGoruntule.aspx?List=b5227992-7788-41c4-8a38-24e745c3108e&ID=5387) between 2007 and 2009 with a total budget of 771.000 Dollars. With the support of this project, a biological control laboratory was set up in the region of Ozen and technical equipment and training support was provided.
* The Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey, HE Veysel Eroğlu paid a visit to Kyrgyzstan and met with the Director of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry at this office in May 2008.
* The Director General of Combating Desertification and Erosion paid a visit to Kyrgyzstan with a delegation between the dates [of 3-7 September 2012](http://www.cem.gov.tr/erozyon/Files/moduller/collesme/uygulamalar/raporlar/KIRGIZİSTAN%20RAPORU.pdf).
* The Deputy Director of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kirgizstan, HE Abdymital Chyngojoev visited to Turkey in [30 January 2013](http://www.cem.gov.tr/erozyon/anasayfa/resimlihaber/13-01-30/KIRGIZ_HEYETİ_GENEL_MÜDÜRÜMÜZ_HANİFİ_AVCI’YI_MAKAMINDA_ZİYARET_ETTİ….aspx?sflang=en).
* On the 10th of April, 2013, “**A COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF KYRGYZSTAN IN THE FIELD OF FORESTRY**” signed.
* According to this agreement it was decided to designate a national coordinator from both sides and to cooperate on biological diversity, watershed management, forest inventory, forest monitoring with the line of climate change, forest protection, expert exchange, knowledge sharing, joint projects, joint trainings, workshops etc.
* Turkish-Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Joint Economic Commission Meeting was held in Ankara, Turkey between 13-15 August 2013 and it was decided,
  + To examine the possibilities of the implementation of Cooperation Agreement to field and further,
  + To support to the biological control laboratory which was set up in the region of Ozen,
  + To prepare Forest management plans, forest fires plans,
  + To launch/implement On-the-job training for Kyrgyz staff in Turkey
  + Establishing a Turk-Kyrgyz Brotherhood Forest (Park diye hatırlıyorum Türkçe metinde-Şu an Atatürk Parkı var Bişkek Belediyesi ile ilgili kurumlarımız yeni park inşası yerine o parkı yenilemeye sıcak bakıyor?) In Bishkek,
  + To Combat desertification, To have soil erosion, flood, torrent and avalanche control,
  + To develop Integrated watershed management,
  + To conduct Plantation with fast growing trees,
  + Seed and seedlings production, nursery modernization,
  + Sand stabilization
* A delegation headed by the Director General of Combating Desertification and including the representatives from FAOSEC and TİKA visited to Kyrgyzstan between the dates of [30 September-6 October 2013.](http://www.cem.gov.tr/erozyon/anasayfa/resimlihaber/13-10-10/GENEL_MÜDÜRLÜĞÜMÜZCE_KIRGİZİSTAN_ve_TACİKİSTAN’A_TEKNİK_ZİYARET_GERÇEKLEŞTİRİLDİ….aspx?sflang=tr)

Distinguished Guests,

As the results of these visit and agreements three projects has been launched. These are;

* Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds in Central Asia and the Caucasus in **Çuy Region**.
* The Project on Combating to Lymantaria dispar Destroying the Walnut and Other Fruits in Kyrgyzstan in **Osh Region.**
* The Project on Capacity Building on Preparing Ecosystem Based Forest Management Plans with Using Geographical Information System and Remote Sensing Techniques **in national level.**

Besides these ongoing projects some preparations have been made on;

* Fast Growing Poplar and Willow Trees,
* Nursery Modernization,

Esteemed participants, Distinguished Guest,

Turks and Kyrgyz are two brotherly nations forever! There is not any problem between the governments but only friendship, cooperation and collaboration!

The citizens of the two countries are able to visit, to invest, to have education without any limitations.

Apart from the latest improvements, we have an original Kyrgyz village in Turkey, [in Van](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulupamir) and you have an original [Turkish village](http://arsiv.sabah.com.tr/2008/08/03/haber,448A56DDDD72428789507A4B47310A75.html) in Oş, in Kökcar! They live in peace as equal citizens of the two countries.

We, as the foresters, are trying to contribute the friendship existing between the two nations and two states. We are trying to share with you our happiness emanating from the (expected) results of our projects here.

As the final words, I would like to thank again to all friends, all guest and distinguished representatives of the Ministries, Embassies, Organizations.

Thank you.

1. <http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/whatis.cfm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jalal-Abad\_Province [↑](#footnote-ref-2)